

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Members Ian Calderon and Wilk

March 19, 2014

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41—Relative to the Armenian and Assyrian Genocide.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 41, as introduced, Ian Calderon. Armenian and Assyrian Genocide.

This measure would commend the extraordinary service delivered by Near East Relief to the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the Assyrian Genocide.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, During the Armenian Genocide of 1915 through
2 1923, 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descent
3 lost their lives at the hands of the Young Turks regime then ruling
4 the Ottoman Empire in its attempt to systematically eliminate the
5 Armenian race; and

6 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of
7 President Woodrow Wilson and the United States State
8 Department, the Near East Relief organization was founded and
9 was provided unprecedented complete access to all United States
10 Government documents and files concerning the plight of Christian
11 minorities; and

12 WHEREAS, Near East Relief was the first congressionally
13 sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to
14 rescue the Armenian nation and other Christian minorities from

1 annihilation after United States Ambassador to Constantinople,
2 Henry A. Morgenthau, Jr., pled for assistance after personally
3 witnessing the systematic massacre of Armenians; and

4 WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts resulted in delivering
5 \$117 million of assistance between 1915 and 1930, including the
6 delivery of food, clothing, and materials for shelter, and setting
7 up refugee camps, clinics, hospitals, and orphanages; and

8 WHEREAS, The generous philanthropy of the American people,
9 including many Californians, directly resulted in the salvation of
10 the Armenian and Assyrian refugees and prevented them from
11 being completely annihilated by the genocide by saving more than
12 one million refugees, including more than 130,000 orphans through
13 their humanitarian assistance; and

14 WHEREAS, Near East Relief evolved into the Near East
15 Foundation in 1930, and continues to provide humanitarian aid to
16 people throughout the Middle East and Africa; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
19 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
20 hereby commends the extraordinary service delivered by Near
21 East Relief to the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the
22 Assyrian Genocide, including thousands of direct beneficiaries of
23 American philanthropy who are the parents, grandparents and
24 great-grandparents of many Californian Armenians and Assyrians;
25 and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
27 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
28 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority
29 Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of
30 the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States
31 Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California
32 in the Congress of the United States.